

1. A rail car mover apparatus for a loader vehicle, the loader vehicle comprising ground tires spaced to roll along a pair of railroad rails, a drive to rotate the ground tires, loader arms extending forward of the loader vehicle, and a tool attachment mechanism at a lower front portion of the loader arms adapted for attachment to a tool  
5 such that the tool can be raised and lowered by the loader arms, the apparatus comprising:

a front wheel bracket adapted for attachment to a front end of the loader vehicle;

a pair of front wheel arms pivotally attached to the front wheel bracket about a  
10 substantially horizontal front pivot axis and extending forward from the front wheel bracket, and a pair of front rail wheels spaced to engage the pair of railroad rails wherein a front rail wheel is rotatably attached to a front end of each front wheel arm;

a front actuator operative to move the front wheel arms up and down about the front pivot axis;

15 a rear wheel bracket adapted for attachment to a rear end of the loader vehicle;

a pair of rear wheel arms pivotally attached to the rear wheel bracket about a substantially horizontal rear pivot axis and extending rearward from the rear wheel bracket, and a pair of rear rail wheels spaced to engage the pair of railroad rails wherein a rear rail wheel is rotatably attached to a rear end of each rear wheel arm;

20 and

a rear actuator operative to move the rear wheel arms up and down about the rear pivot axis;

a coupler adapter adapted at a rear end thereof for attachment to the tool attachment mechanism and adapted at a front end thereof for coupling to a rail car  
25 hitch.

2. The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein at least one actuator comprises an extendable cylinder.
3. The apparatus of Claim 2 wherein the extendable cylinder is operated by a pressurized fluid.
4. The apparatus of Claim 3 wherein the front actuator comprises a pair of front extendable cylinders operated by a pressurized fluid, and wherein each front extendable cylinder moves one of the front wheel arms.
5. The apparatus of Claim 4 wherein the rear actuator comprises a pair of rear extendable cylinders operated by a pressurized fluid, and wherein each rear extendable cylinder moves one of the rear wheel arms.
6. The apparatus of Claim 4 further comprising a pressurized fluid source adapted to be attached to the loader vehicle and powered by the loader vehicle.
7. The apparatus of Claim 3 wherein a pressure of the pressurized fluid can be adjusted.
8. The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein the front wheel arms are adapted for removable attachment to the front wheel bracket.
9. The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein the front wheel bracket is adapted for removable attachment to the front end of the loader vehicle.
10. The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein the loader vehicle is a skid steer loader vehicle.
11. The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein the tool attachment mechanism is a quick-attach mechanism operative to releasably attach a tool to the loader arms, and wherein the coupler adapter is configured at a rear end thereof to attach to the quick-attach mechanism in a manner substantially the same as the tool.

12. A rail car mover loader vehicle comprising:

ground tires spaced to roll along a pair of railroad rails;

a drive to rotate the ground tires;

5 loader arms extending forward of the loader vehicle and operative to move up and down;

a pair of front rail wheels spaced to engage the pair of railroad rails and rotatably attached to a front end of the loader vehicle such that the front rail wheels can move up and down in response to forces exerted by a front actuator;

10 a pair of rear rail wheels spaced to engage the pair of railroad rails and rotatably attached to a rear end of the loader vehicle such that the rear rail wheels can move up and down in response to forces exerted by a rear actuator;

a coupler adapter attached at a rear end thereof to a front portion of the loader arms and adapted at a front end thereof for coupling to a rail car hitch.

13. The vehicle of Claim 12 wherein the front rail wheels are attached to the front end of the loader vehicle such that the front rail wheels are forward of front ground wheels when in a down position.

14. The vehicle of Claim 13 wherein the rear rail wheels are attached to the rear end of the loader vehicle such that the rear rail wheels are rearward of rear ground wheels when in a down position.

15. The vehicle of Claim 14 wherein the front rail wheels are rotatably attached to the front end of the loader vehicle by rotatable attachment to respective front ends of a pair of front wheel arms wherein rear ends of the front wheel arms are pivotally attached to the front end of the loader vehicle about a substantially horizontal front  
5 pivot axis.

16. The vehicle of Claim 15 wherein the rear rail wheels are rotatably attached to the rear end of the loader vehicle by rotatable attachment to respective rear ends of a pair of rear wheel arms wherein front ends of the rear wheel arms are pivotally attached to the rear end of the loader vehicle about a substantially horizontal rear pivot axis.
17. The vehicle of Claim 12 wherein the front and rear actuators comprise extendable cylinders.
18. The vehicle of Claim 17 wherein the extendable cylinders are operated by a pressurized fluid.
19. The vehicle of Claim 16 wherein the front actuator comprises a pair of front extendable cylinders operated by a pressurized fluid, and wherein each front extendable cylinder moves one of the front wheel arms.
20. The vehicle of Claim 19 wherein the rear actuator comprises a pair of rear extendable cylinders operated by a pressurized fluid, and wherein each rear extendable cylinder moves one of the rear wheel arms.
21. The vehicle of Claim 18 further comprising a pressurized fluid source attached to the rear end of the loader vehicle and powered by the loader vehicle.
22. The vehicle of Claim 18 wherein a pressure of the pressurized fluid can be adjusted.
23. The vehicle of Claim 12 wherein the rear rail wheels are removably attached to a rear end of the loader vehicle.

24. A rail car mover apparatus for a loader vehicle, the loader vehicle comprising ground tires spaced to roll along a pair of railroad rails, a drive to rotate the ground tires, and loader arms extending forward of the loader vehicle and operative to move up and down, the apparatus comprising:

5 means to rotatably attach a pair of front rail wheels to a front end of the loader vehicle such that the front rail wheels are spaced to engage the pair of railroad rails and such that the front rail wheels can move up and down in response to forces exerted by a front actuator;

10 means to rotatably attach a pair of rear rail wheels to a rear end of the loader vehicle such that the rear rail wheels are spaced to engage the pair of railroad rails and such that the rear rail wheels can move up and down in response to forces exerted by a rear actuator;

a coupler adapter adapted at a rear end thereof for attachment to a front portion of the loader arms and adapted at a front end thereof for coupling to a rail car hitch.

25. The apparatus of Claim 24 wherein at least one actuator comprises an extendable cylinder.